

Dear members and friends of Holy Trinity,

Here is a service bulletin for this week. While a remote service can not take the place of worshipping together as a congregation in the sanctuary, we can trust that the Spirit is at work in whatever form our worship takes. I hope what follows is helpful to you for this uncharted territory into which we have entered.

A few details to note:

- After each hymn, there is a link which should allow for you to hear an arrangement of that particular musical selection.
- After the dismissal, if you continue to scroll down, you will find what would typically be in the bulletin on an insert about one of the hymns. In addition, the names of those on the prayer list are included.

For the service, you are invited to have a bible ready so you can look up the readings.

We will continue to send pertinent information, next week's thoughts for the Lenten study on chapter 5, and a Sunday worship service.

As a number of you did last week, you might consider using this service on Sunday morning at 9:30 as a way to be in prayerful solidarity with other congregation members.

God's Peace and Well-Being be with you all,

Pastor John

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
5800 Long Beach Blvd. Brant Beach, NJ 08008  
**Morning Worship: 9:30 am**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2020**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
*Rev. John Anderson, Pastor*

**Preparation For Worship *Lord Jesus Think on Me***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqQ1IPOIZwA>

## **ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our † Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

## SERMON

During Lent, we have heard powerful stories from the life of Jesus:

- Nicodemus visiting Jesus under the cover of darkness (John 3),
- Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), and
- Jesus giving sight to the man born blind (John 9).

This week we hear another powerful story - the account of Jesus restoring Lazarus to life (John 11).

In my reading of this week's passage, 3 particular actions of Jesus have jumped out at me. Consider with me each of these 3 actions.

First, in verse 6 we hear that after learning that his friend, Lazarus, was ill, Jesus **stayed** for another two days where he was residing. Some biblical scholars use the verb "tarried" instead of stayed. Tarried, they suggest better captures the sense of Jesus remaining intentionally where he was located. So, Jesus waits or tarries two days and then begins his journey to Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus.

Why did Jesus wait with Lazarus being ill? And it would seem that Lazarus was rather ill. There is no clear answer. In verse 4, Jesus comments, *This illness does not*

*lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.* Farther along, in verse 14, Jesus informs the disciples that he knows that Lazarus has died. Yet there is no mention of anyone notifying Jesus that his friend has died. In this gospel, there are times when Jesus seems to have special knowledge about people as we see here. Another example of this is when Jesus, without anyone telling him, knows how many husbands the woman at the well has been married to during her life.

Why did Jesus **stay** or tarry for two days and then leave for Bethany? It is puzzling. Biblical scholars sidestep around this question. There is no clear answer. It is interesting, that in that culture many believed that a person's spirit lingered for three days and then departed. When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days, verse 39. In the understanding of that culture, by the fourth day, Lazarus was indeed truly dead.

Whatever the purpose of Jesus tarrying, Martha's pain comes through in her words to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." To me her words sound sharp, very human. Haven't we all had times when we have questioned, "God where are you?"

A second action to take note of, in verse 35, is that Jesus **began to weep**. Some suggest that the cause of Jesus' distress is the lack of faith of those around him. That might be a small part of the reason he weeps. But, in the setting, doesn't it make more sense that Jesus' sorrow has to do with his own personal grief at the loss of his friend? And his sympathy with those he is around, family and friends of Lazarus, who have also lost a loved one?

A question to consider: What does Jesus weeping over Lazarus' death mean for us? It certainly drives home the truth that Jesus knows our pain, having experienced it himself. In addition, it means that he weeps for us and with us in our struggles. Jesus is not aloof from us, not removed from our struggles, but truly with us.

At a time such as this, we have health concerns for ourselves, those near us, and for those in other regions of the world whom we will never meet. Isolation and economic uncertainty are more a part of our lives than days ago. *Jesus began to weep* reminds us that he does understand and feel our fears and struggles.

A third and final action to consider - Jesus says to the crowd, "**Unbind him, and let him go**". When Jesus speaks those words, Lazarus, restored to earthly life, stands outside of the tomb. He is bound or wrapped up in grave clothes as was the practice. Jesus calls upon the crowd to remove the burial clothes wrapped around him. Jesus calls upon the crowd to participate in setting Lazarus free or we could say in restoring him.

In a time of uncertainty such as now, we can wonder what to do. This passage lets us know that Jesus calls upon us as individuals to be a part of his mission - one of unbinding us and others.

Jesus' call to us is also a group or corporate call. The group stood staring in shock, no doubt, with their mouths hanging open as Lazarus exited the tomb. Together, this group who were in mourning just moments earlier, were directed to be part of unbinding him. As Jesus' collective hands and feet in the world, we are to be about God's work of unbinding each other and others anxiety, loneliness, lack of purpose.

In closing, at the end of this long sermon, we can rest in the truth that Jesus understands us, even weeps with us in our struggles. Secure in our connection to him, we can look for how to extend the blessings of his community to others. Amen.

### **APOSTLES CREED:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Be Not Afraid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oSiX1WKg4w&feature=youtu.be>

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal (*like Hans Nielsen Hauge, whom we commemorate today*). Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters (*especially*). Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain. Grant your healing and well-being to all struggling with illness including all impacted by the Corona 19 virus. Fill all medical personnel who make decisions and all elected leaders with stamina and wisdom. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and those we name aloud or in our hearts. Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. (*Particular ministry partnerships may be named.*) Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*especially*). Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

### **Song: I am the Bread of Life**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xrj76JnO-jQ&feature=youtu.be>

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

### ***Bulletin Insert***

Be Not Afraid”

This hymn was written by the Jesuit songwriter, John Foley, as he discerned his upcoming ordination. It's lyrics reflect the words of comfort found in Matthew 28:20, “I am with you always.”

”I Am the Bread of Life”

Written by Suzanne Toolan in 1964, this hymn brings the message of Resurrection and Hope. It has been translated into 25 languages and performed in congregations around the world!

Welcome to the world Hadley Jane Papper, daughter of Michelle and Mike Papper,  
granddaughter of Judy and Mike Heuberger.

We are praying for these people:

Dawne	Frank	Alice
Jean	Bev	Pat
Robert	John	Sandy
Candy	Mary Ellen	John C.
John Jr.	Dick	Dot
Dennis	Bobby	Carol
Tim	Kathy E.	Jackie
Phyllis	Pat	Alice
Michelle	Carol	family of Sandy Medford
Cody	Bob	Zion Lutheran Church, Barnegat Light
Ann	Irene	
Lynn	Emit	
Dot	Jeanette	